

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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3 1. An unconstrained artificial knee joint for dogs, adapted to be implanted at the  
4 distal end of the femur and proximal end of the tibia, comprising:

5 a metallic femoral component having two condylar surfaces integrally formed  
6 with a smooth recessed surface extending between said condylar surfaces, said femoral  
7 component being formed without any reinforcing ribs in order to minimize the resection of the  
8 distal femur,

9 a femoral anchoring stem carried by said femoral component, said anchoring  
10 stem adapted to extend upwardly into and be embedded in said femur,

11 a metallic tibial support platform having an upper surface and a lower surface,

12 a tibial anchoring stem carried by said lower surface of said tibial support  
13 platform, said anchoring stem adapted to extend downwardly into the tibia and be embedded  
14 in the tibia,

15 a plastic spacer means carried by said upper surface of said tibial support  
16 platform, said plastic spacer means being formed to cooperate with and slide smoothly against  
17 said condylar surfaces of said femoral component, and

18 mounting means for connecting said plastic spacer means to said tibial support  
19 platform.

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21 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said upper surface of said tibial support  
22 platform has first and second ends and said mounting means comprises an upstanding edge  
23 formed at said first end of the upper surface of said tibial support tray, one or more upstanding  
24 pegs formed adjacent said second end, and recesses formed in said spacer to engage said  
25 upstanding edge and said one or more upstanding pegs.

1           3.     The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said femoral component and said femoral  
2 anchoring stem comprise a single, monolithic piece of stainless steel.

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4           4.     The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said tibial support tray and said tibial  
5 anchoring stem comprise a single, monolithic piece of stainless steel.

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7           5.     The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said plastic spacer means is made of ultra-  
8 high molecular weight plastic.